

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03256 202208Z
ACTION HA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3592
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3256

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJ: VISIT OF WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR, HENRY A.
BARBER

REF: SINGAPORE 1726

1. DIRECTOR BARBER OF WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL MET
WITH DCM APRIL 18 TO REVIEW REFUGEE MATTERS IN
MALAYSIA AND TO DISCUSS FURTHER HIS ORGANIZATION'S
PROPOSAL TO OPERATE A VESSEL TO DEAL WITH REFUGEES ON
THE HIGH SEAS. BARBER DESCRIBED THE PROJECT IN
ESSENTIALLY THE SAME TERMS AS CONTAINED IN PARA 5 OF
REFTEL, I.E., THAT THE SHIP WOULD NOT HAVE THE MISSION
OF PICKING UP REFUGEES AT SEA BUT INSTEAD WOULD ASSIST
REFUGEES AT SEA TO PERMIT THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR
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JOURNEY. HE SAID THAT IN FACT THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE
INITIALLY WOULD BE TO DETERMINE WHAT THE ACTUAL
SITUATION IS REGARDING SUCH BOATS, I. E., WHAT
THEIR PROBLEMS WERE, TO WHAT EXTENT THEY WERE OR
THEY WERE NOT ASSISTED BY MERCHANT VESSELS,
ETC. HE ADMITTED THERE MIGHT BE CASES WHEN THEIR
VESSEL WOULD HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO TAKE ON

REFUGEES, BUT THIS WAS NOT THE MAIN INTENTION.

2. BARBER SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE WCRP PORJECT HAD ENCOUNTERED LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, HE CLAIMED THAT HIS PROJECT WOULD AVOID THESE THROUGH BETTER MANAGEMENT AND THE MORE LIMITED OBJECTIVE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

3. BARBER INDICATED THAT WORLD VISION ALSO INTENDS TO MOUNT A PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S. TO HELP DRUM UP SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, ALONG THE LINES OF THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE EFFORT. HE SAID WORLD VISION INTENDS TO PUT TOGETHER A ONE-HOUR TV SPECIAL FOR U.S. NETWORKS AND CLAIMED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS ARE ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY.

4. DCM TOOK THE OCCASION TO DESCRIBE THE HELPFUL AND HUMANITARIAN ATTITUDE MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS HAVE SHOWN IN PRACTICE TOWARD REFUGEES BY ACCEPTING THEM FOR FIRST ASYLUM. DCM SAID THAT CONTINUED ASSISTANCE OF U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RESETTLE THE REFUGEES WOULD HELP ASSURE THAT SUCH AN ATTITUDE CONTINUES.

5. BARBER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ARRANGEMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADE FOR HIM TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS IN THE COMPANY OF OUR REFUGEE OFFICERS AND INS OFFICIALS APRIL 17. HE INTENDED TO CALL ON UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR AND MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY PERSONNEL HERE IN KUALA LUMPUR. HE HAD NO PLANS TO CALL ON MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME. MILLER

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